# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MARYLAND NORTHERN DIVISION

Valerie J. Osborne,

Civil Action No.: 1:14-cv-2958

Plaintiff,

v.

NCO Financial Systems, Inc.; and DOES 1-10, : COMPLAINT

inclusive,

Defendants.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Valerie J. Osborne, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

- 4. The Plaintiff, Valerie J. Osborne ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Bel Air, Maryland, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant, NCO Financial Systems, Inc. ("NCO"), is a Pennsylvania business entity with an address of 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044, operating as a

collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by NCO and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 7. NCO at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

# ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

### A. The Debt

- 8. Plaintiff's son, William Osborne (hereafter the "Debtor"), allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to NCO for collection, or NCO was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

### B. NCO Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. In or around January 2013, NCO contacted the Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt from William Osborne.
  - 13. The calls were placed to the Plaintiff's home phone number, 410-xxx-2301.
- 14. Plaintiff instructed the Defendant to cease calling her phone number looking for her son and to cease calling her altogether.
- 15. Nonetheless, NCO continued to place calls to Plaintiff's in an attempt to collect the Debt including, but not limited to, calls on December 31, 2013 and December 14, 2013.

## C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 16. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 17. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

# <u>COUNT I</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 18. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 19. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with the Plaintiff without the consent of the debtor or the express or a permissible purpose.
- 21. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA.
  - 22. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;

- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
  - § 1692k(a)(3) against the Defendants;
- 4. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

# TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: September 18, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

By <u>/s/ Sergei Lemberg</u>
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